

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, comprising:

a processor and a memory;

a first processing means for executing unit that executes the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing means for executing unit that executes the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process, wherein the error diffusion process by the second processing unit requires a lighter processing load than the error diffusion process by the first processing unit; and

an error diffusion processing control means for making controlling unit that controls to execute, by the first processing means unit, the error diffusion process to density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing means unit, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first processing ~~means~~ unit is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

4. (Currently Amended) A print control apparatus for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, comprising:

a processor and a memory;

a first processing ~~means for executing~~ unit that executes the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing ~~means for executing~~ unit that executes the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process, wherein the error diffusion process by the second processing unit requires a lighter processing load than the error diffusion process by the first processing unit; and

an error diffusion processing control ~~means for controlling~~ unit that controls to execute, by the first processing ~~means~~ unit, the error diffusion process to density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be

expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing means unit, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first processing means unit is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing method of executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, comprising:

a first processing step of executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing step of executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process, wherein the error diffusion process by the second processing step requires a lighter processing load than the error diffusion process by the first processing step; and

an error diffusion processing control step of controlling to execute the error diffusion process to the density components of a similar color among the plurality of

density components by executing, by the first processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said first processing step is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

10. (Currently Amended) A print control method of executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, comprising:

a first processing step of executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing step of executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process, wherein the error diffusion process by the second processing step requires a lighter processing load than the error diffusion process by the first processing step; and

an error diffusion processing control step of controlling to execute the error diffusion process to the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said first processing step is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored an image processing program for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, wherein said program comprises:

a first processing step of executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing step of executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process, wherein the error diffusion

process by the second processing step requires a lighter processing load than the error diffusion process by the first processing step; and

an error diffusion processing control step of controlling to execute the error diffusion process to the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said first processing step is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored a print control program for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, wherein said program comprises:

a first processing step of executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing step of executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process, wherein the error diffusion process by the second processing step requires a lighter processing load than the error diffusion process by the first processing step; and

an error diffusion processing control step of controlling to execute the error diffusion process to the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is low, and executing, by the second processing step, the error diffusion process to the density component whose highest density which can be expressed is high.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein said first processing step is an error diffusion process for executing quantization on the basis of information of the other density components among said plurality of density components.

19. to 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, comprising:

a processor and a memory;

a first processing ~~means for executing unit that executes~~ the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing ~~means for executing unit that executes~~ the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process, wherein the error diffusion process by the second processing unit requires a lighter processing load than the error diffusion process by the first processing unit; and

an error diffusion processing control means for controlling unit that controls to execute the error diffusion process of the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing ~~means unit~~, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is small, and executing, by the second processing ~~means unit~~, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is large.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for an image processing apparatus for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, comprising:

a first processing step for executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;



a second processing step for executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process, wherein the error diffusion process by the second processing step requires a lighter processing load than the error diffusion process by the first processing step; and

an error diffusion processing control step for controlling to execute the error diffusion process of the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is small, and executing, by the second processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is large.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored a program for executing an error diffusion process to a plurality of density components, the program comprising:

a first processing step for executing the error diffusion process by changing at least one of a quantization threshold value and a quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process on the basis of information on one of the density components to be processed;

a second processing step for executing the error diffusion process by setting, into fixed values, the quantization threshold value and the quantization diffusion coefficient which are used for the error diffusion process, wherein the error diffusion process by the second processing step requires a lighter processing load than the error diffusion process by the first processing step; and

an error diffusion processing control step for controlling to execute the error diffusion process of the density components of a similar color among the plurality of density components by executing, by the first processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is small, and executing, by the second processing means, the error diffusion process to the density component whose droplet is large.